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Minutes 01/06/2009

Arlington Historical Commission
 Minutes for the Meeting of
 Tuesday, 6 January 2009
 Whittemore-Robbins House, 7:45 p.m.

Call to Order: Richard Duffy, Co-Chairman, presiding, with Co-Chair JoAnn Robinson, Commissioners Eric Stange, Pamela Meister, and Dianne Schaefer, Patrick Guthrie, Jane Becker and Associate Commissioner, Alex Frisch.

Review of October 7, 2008: Minutes approved.

Communications Received:

- Call from Henry Scott, with inquiries about 9 Fessenden Road. Referred to Commission's web site for information on the by-law and procedures of this commission.
- Request from David Levy, executive director, Housing Corporation of Arlington, for letter to Building Department regarding 11-13 Peirce St. Proposed work is less than 25% of applicable elevations. Jurisdiction declined, memo sent.
- Letter from Rick Johnson, owner of 54 Massachusetts Ave. with request for review and edit of text for a descriptive marker he proposes to install on the lawn of this property, the Butterfield-Whittemore House. Mr. Johnson has invited the Commission to tour the now-completed restoration (discussion item).
- Call from Germaine Lawrence, Inc. regarding demolitions of 2 Claremont Avenue. Not on the Inventory; memo sent to Building Department. Note that this circa 1890s home was known as "St. Michael's House" during the era when St. Anne's School was in operation on the site. It was used as a dormitory for boarding students; immediate use is said to be for staff parking lot.
- FedEx letter from Sarah Farley, architectural historian from EBI Consulting regarding an invitation to comment on the proposed telecommunications facility installation at Arlington Turkey Hill, off Dodge Street. There is an attached Project Summary Form for complete details and pictures of plans. Comments received as soon as possible within 30 days after December 14, 2008 (Discussion item).
- Request for demolition of 1090 Cutter Hill Road; not on Inventory. Memo sent to Building Department. Mr. Duffy understands that a new cul-de-sac, to be called Cutter Hill Place is to be built on the site.
- Call inquiring about purchase of Northwest Arlington survey book. Referred to the Arlington Historical Society bookshop and /or The Book Rack.
- Call from a potential purchaser of 125 Brattle Street. Advised her as to sources of information on history of the property.
- Call from David Levy about work on property at 11-13 Peirce St.

Reports of other Town Boards and Historical Organizations:

- Arlington Preservation Fund (Frisch)- Patrick Guthrie appointed for new 3-year term.

- Zoning By-Law Review Committee (Stange)- Discussed dissolution, but no decision made.
- Arlington Historical Society (Duffy)- No public programming; members-only social and special exhibits in January.
- Old Schwamb Mill (Duffy)- An exhibit and events honoring the 10th Anniversary of the Cyrus Dallin Museum are taking place this season.
- Arlington Historic Districts Commission (Frisch)- Nothing to report.
- 200th Anniversary Committee (Meister)- Meeting to be held on January 14, 2009 to discuss returning funds for public use. May be a warrant article drafted to decide on usages.

Historical Commission FY 2009 Budget.- Nothing to report.

Projects Proceeding under Hearings and Approvals:

- 3-5 Brattle Street (Fertman) 4/02 Stange- Nothing to report.
- 821 Massachusetts Avenue (Noyes RT) 10/03; modified 4/08 Duffy- Still candidate for reuse. Arlington Housing Corporation has interest in property; to divide into 1 person living units.
- Symmes Hospital (Town of Arlington) 6/04 Duffy- Come to halt due to financing.
- 45 Fairview Avenue (Trvalik) 11/07 Guthrie- No report.
- 21 Appleton Street (Colosimo) 4/08 Robinson-No work done.
- 43-45 Massachusetts Ave. (Shapiro) 8/08 Schaefer-Nothing to report.
- 18 Water Street (Callahan)7/08 Robinson- Discovered that lot is smaller than thought. So plans are being redone. Bob Botterio working with owners and suggesting plans to preserve the façade and shell of the house.
- 40 Lake Street (Burger/Rosenburg) 9/08 Guthrie-Clapboard work on side has been done.
- 3 Brantwood Road (aka 22 Kensington Park) (Anesse) 9/08 Robinson- Nothing to report.

Continuing Projects

- Whittemore Robbins House (and outbuildings): Robinson. Gutters work is complete.
- Arlington Civic Block Garden: Robinson- An email was sent to Clarissa Rowe regarding the missing bow of the Menotomy Indian. Exhibit at Robbins Library in May 2009 of Old Burying Ground.
- Inventory Expansion and Review: Duffy, Robinson- No report.
- Education/Outreach: Duffy/Robinson –“ History of Arlington Street Names” concluded its 2008 planned run as a weekly column in the Advocate, plus a special year-end feature. During 2009 the series will continue in monthly installments.
- Historic House Markers: Duffy: Received and pending delivery to property owners: 1. Addison Brooks House built c. 1870 moved 1918 to 125 Brooks Avenue; 2. Charles C. Lothrop House 1901 at 15 Davis Avenue; 3. Circa 1872- no historic house name 147 Warren Street.
- Town Day, Duffy: Nothing to report.
- Web Site, Stange: Web site was down for a couple of days in December. Mr. Stange was notified by Mr. Duffy and addressed the issue successfully.

Discussion and Hearings: No hearings scheduled.

Old Business: Nothing to discuss.

New Business:

Mr. Duffy to discuss plans at Park Circle Water Tower for a fire safety antenna to be installed with Kevin O'Brien.
JoAnn Robinson working on the RFP to restore Cook's Hollow as a park and to put in seat wall for cremated remains. This area is overseen by the Conservation Commission.

Adjourn at 8:55pm

The next Arlington Historical Commission meeting will be February 3, 2009 at 7:45pm

For the Arlington Historical Commission, Victoria Rose, Recording Secretary.